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(57) A portable container body 1 has a substantially U-shaped carrying handle 2 each end of which has an inwardly extending lug 3 disposed in a respective opening in a flange portion 5 of the body 1. The lug 3 and the

opening have co-operating profiles, at least one of which is resiliently deformable, and including projections on the lug and recesses in the opening which together define an upright carrying position of the handle 2 relative to the body 1 and other positions I, II and III at right angles 45° and 135° respectively to the carrying position.



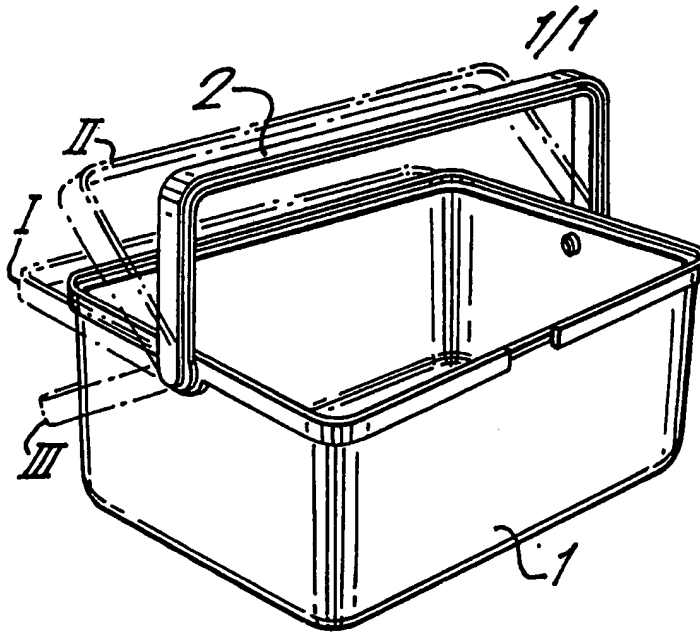


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

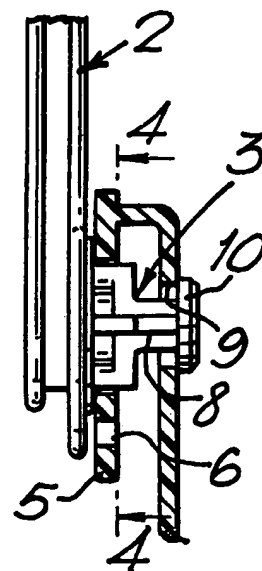
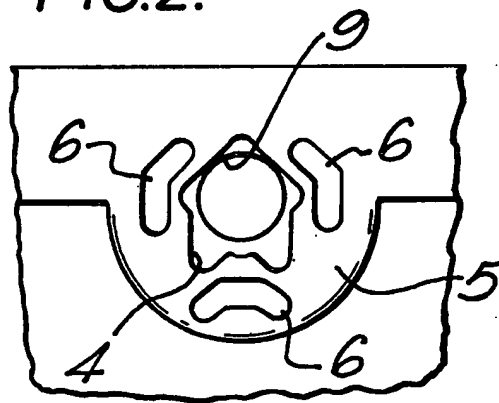


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4A.

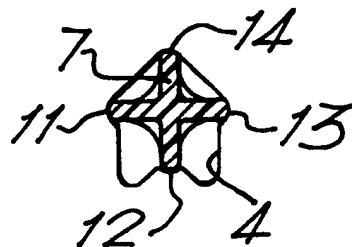
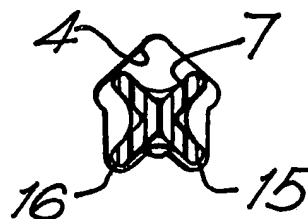


FIG. 4B.



SPECIFICATION

A portable body with carrying handle

The present invention relates to portable bodies having substantially U-shaped carrying handles, each end of such handles being mounted to the body by means of a lug disposed in a corresponding opening.

Portable bodies, for example buckets, with at least one such freely pivotable handle are well known. The lugs may be provided either as inwardly extending lugs at each end of the handle or as outwardly extending lugs on the body with the openings provided on the body or ends of the handle respectively. Either arrangement suffers from the disadvantage that relative pivoting between the body and handle is allowed during transport.

According to the present invention each opening and its corresponding lug are provided with cooperating profiles, at least one of which profiles is resiliently deformable, one of the profiles including at least one projection and the other including at least one recess which together define at least a carrying position of the handle relative to the body. Thus a carrying position is provided in which relative pivoting motion between the handle and body is prevented. Where the body is a container this is particularly important in reducing the risk of damage to the contents, for example due to their knocking against the sides of the container. The fixed carrying position also increases the ease with which a heavy and/or unwieldy body may be carried.

Preferably the lugs are provided as inwardly extending lugs on each end of the handle and the opening are in a resilient portion of the body. This produces a neat exterior finish which is desirable, for example, where the body is a box-like container for a baby's toilet requisites.

In order that the invention may be well understood an embodiment thereof will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portable container with handle showing in phantom some of the positions which the handle can take up relative to the container body;

Figure 2 is a detail of an opening in the body for receiving the handle;

Figure 3 is a section through a portion of a side wall of the container showing one end of the handle mounted to the container body;

Figure 4A is a section on the line 4—4 of Figure 3; and

Figure 4B is a view similar to Figure 4A showing the relative positions of the parts when the handle is in a different position from Figure 4A.

Figure 1 shows a portable container body 1 having a substantially U-shaped carrying handle 2. The handle 2 is shown as having three substantially straight sections, however a semicircular or similar arcuate shape may be provided. Each end of the handle 2 has an

inwardly extending lug 3 disposed in a hole 4 in a resilient flange portion 5 of the body 1. The resilience of the flange 5 in the region of the opening may be increased by the provision of further openings 6 surrounding the opening 4.

The lug 3 comprises a portion 7 disposed in opening 4. The portion 7 is provided with four perpendicular projections or limbs defining a cruciform profile. The lug 3 further comprises a projecting shank 8 which passes through a further opening 9 in the wall of the container behind flange 5. The shank 8 terminates in a tapered stud 10. The larger diameter of the outer face of the stud is slightly greater than the diameter of hole 9 so that once the stud has been pushed through the hole 9 from the outside it is not possible for it to be withdrawn without excessive force.

The profile of opening 4 and the cruciform profile of lug portion 7 cooperate to define a plurality of fixed positions of the handle 2 relative to the body 1. The handle being movable from one position to another on application of a definite pivoting force. This is achieved by the provision of a plurality of recesses in the profile of opening 4. When the handle is in the upright carrying position shown in Figure 1 or positions I as shown in phantom in Figure 1 the ends of the limbs of the cruciform portion are disposed in recesses 11, 12, 13. The remaining limb having its end located at the right angle 14. There are four handle positions in which the cruciform portion has the appearance shown in Figure 4A and these four positions are mutually at right angles. It may not be possible or useful for the handle to take up all four positions in dependence on the shape and purpose of the body. If the handle is rotated through 45° from any of the four above-mentioned positions the ends of two of the limbs are located in recesses 15 and 16 of opening 4. Two of the four possible positions in which the cruciform portion 7 has the appearance shown in Figure 4B are illustrated in phantom as positions II and III in Figure 1. Whilst the upright position of the handle is useful as a carrying position some or all of the other attainable positions may be useful as handle storage positions.

In order to move the handle 2 from one of the above-described positions to another a firm pivoting force is applied to the handle. Since the flange portion 5 is resilient application of sufficient force will allow the ends of the limbs of the cruciform portion to move out of their recesses and rotate until some or all of them lock into the recesses of the next fixed position. If this is not the desired position further applications of pivoting force, in either sense, to the handle will move the handle between its various fixed positions. In normal use the handle will remain in the last set position until forced out of it so that during carrying with the handle in the upright position the container body 1 and handle 2 will remain fixed relative to one another.

It will be appreciated that although in the illustrated embodiment the handle 2 carries the inwardly extending lugs 3 and the openings 4 are

provided on the container body 1, it is possible alternatively to provide the ends of the handles with openings to cooperate with outwardly extending lugs carried by the body.

5 CLAIMS

1. A portable body having a substantially U-shaped carrying handle each end of which is mounted to the body by means of a lug disposed in a corresponding opening; wherein each lug and
10 corresponding opening are provided with co-operating profiles, at least one of which profiles is resiliently deformable, one of the profiles including at least one projection and the other profile including at least one recess which together
15 define at least a carrying position of the handle relative to the body.
2. A portable body as claimed in claim 1, wherein said profiles define positions of the handle at right angles from said carrying position.
- 20 3. A portable body as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said profiles define positions of the handle at an acute angle from said carrying position.
4. A portable body as claimed in claim 3,
25 wherein said acute angle is 45° .
5. A portable body as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said profiles define positions of the handle at an obtuse angle from said carrying position.

30 6. A portable body as claimed in claim 5, wherein said obtuse angle is 135° .

7. A portable body as claimed in claim 6, wherein said lug comprises four projections defining, a cruciform profile.

35 8. A portable body as claimed in claim 7, wherein said opening comprises four recesses for receiving the projections of the lug for defining said carrying position and said positions at right angles therefrom, and two further recesses and
40 surfaces opposed thereto for receiving and co-operating with said projections for defining said positions at 45° and 135° from said carrying position.

9. A portable body as claimed in any one of the
45 preceding claims, wherein the lugs extend inwardly on each end of the handle and the openings are in resilient portions of the body.

10. A portable body as claimed in claim 9, wherein the openings are provided in a resilient
50 downturned flange portion of the body.

11. A portable body as claimed in claim 10, wherein further openings are provided in the flange about each said opening to facilitate resilient deformation of the profile defined
55 thereby.

12. A portable body having a substantially U-shaped carrying handle and substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.